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## To: Renal Dialysis Facilities

### Clarification to EPO and Aranasp Policy

An Alert was sent to all Renal Dialysis Providers on December 21, 2006 defining the EPO and Aranasp Policy for Renal Dialysis Facilities. This policy applies to all recipients receiving dialysis services from the facility; this includes home dialysis recipients as well. See below:

Effective January 1, 2007 Medicaid will adopt Medicare's EPO (Q4081) and Aranasp (J0882) Monitoring Policy. A 25% reduction will be applied in the dosage of these drugs for patients whose hematocrit exceeds 39.0 (hemoglobin of 13.0). The following are key points to remember when billing for EPO and Aranasp:

- The revised definition of the GS modifier is, "Dosage of EPO or Darbeopetin Alfa has been reduced and maintained in response to hematocrit or hemoglobin level."
- Providers should include the GS modifier on the claim when the reported hematocrit level is above 39.0% (hemoglobin 13.0g/dL) and a corresponding dose reduction was made and maintained.
- When modifier GS is not present, EPO and Aranasp payments will be reduced by 25%.

If you have any questions about this policy, you may contact Jerri Jackson at 334-242-5630 or by e-mail at [Jerri.Jackson@medicaid.alabama.gov](mailto:Jerri.Jackson@medicaid.alabama.gov).

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